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I hereby certify that this paper and all papers and fees referred to herein are being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.


Shaylor E. Dunn

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Sprague et al.

Group Art Unit: 2697

Serial No.: 09/443,712

Examiner: Lee, T. L.

Filed: November 19, 1999

Docket No.: 1322/8

Confirmation No.: 7620

For: METHODS AND SYSTEMS FOR COMMUNICATING SIGNALING SYSTEM 7 (SS7) USER PART MESSAGES AMONG SS7 SIGNALING POINTS (SPs) AND INTERNET PROTOCOL (IP) NODES USING SIGNAL TRANSFER POINTS (STPs)

AFFIDAVIT OF DAVID M. SPRAGUE PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. § 1.132

I, David M. Sprague declare as follows:

1. I am an inventor in U.S. Patent Application No. 09/443,712 for Methods and Systems for Communicating Signaling System 7 (SS7) User Part Messages among SS7 Signaling Points (SPs) and Internet Protocol (IP) Nodes using Signal Transfer Points (STPs), filed November 19, 1999.
2. I have reviewed the documents entitled:
 - a. PCS Access Network Requirements: Interface Specification, Interface: Service Access Socket System Interface (SASSI), Version 01.01, December 3, 1998; and

Serial No.: 09/443,712

- b. PCS Access Network Requirements: Product Specification, Network Element: Gateway Signal Transfer Point between CCS/SS7 and TCP-IP Networks (GW-STP-IP), December 3, 1998.
3. The customer that prepared these documents approached Tekelec with the need of an IP link in their network.
4. The inventors of the subject application are the originators of the idea of providing SS7 over IP functionality in an STP platform and were working on that solution in early 1998.
5. Tekelec originated and developed the interface specifications begin in section 9.0 and continuing through the end of the attached document entitled PCS Access Network Requirements: Product Specification, Interface, Service Access Socket System Interface (SASSI). These sections later became part of Tekelec's transport adapter interface (TALI) as described in IETF RFC 3094.

Serial No.: 09/443,712

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment or both under § 1001 of Title 18 of the United States code and that the such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Date: Nov 18, 2003

By: David M. Sprague
David M. Sprague